Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05807 240916Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 IO-14 HA-05 /108 W
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R 240643Z JUL 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3879
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMCONSULATE MEDAN
AMCONSULATE SURABAYA

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5807

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ID, AS
SUBJ: ALLEGATIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT IN TIMOR

1. THE WEEKLY "NATION REVIEW" FOR JULY 21-27 CARRIED THE FOLLOW-
ING NEWS REPORT FROM THE "EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY": BEGIN QUOTE.
FRETILIN HAS NAMED THE TIME AND PLACES IT CLAIMS AMERICAN MILITARY
ADVISERS AND MERCENARIES HAVE BEEN PRESENT IN MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS
IN EAST TIMOR.

ON JULY 5, FRETLIN FORCES SAW AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISERS LAND
ON MOUNT KAITASSO, NEAR REMEXION FROM AN INDONESIAN HELICOPTER,
ACCORDING TO MR. ALARICO FERNANDES, MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND
NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR.

ON JULY 7, MR MERNANDES REPORTED THAT AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISERS
AND MERCENARIES WERE SEEN FIGHTING BESIDE INDONESIAN TROOPS IN THE
LEKIDOE AREA ON JUNE 13 AND IN THE REMEXIO AREA ON JUNE 21-22.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CANBER 05807 240916Z

MR. FERNANDES SAID NONE OF THE AMERICANS HAD BEEN KILLED BY
FRETELIN FORCES.

THE AMERICANS, HE SAID, WERE "VERY CAREFUL" ON MILITARY OPERAT-
IONS.

HE ALSO SAID THAT AMERICAN PILOTS WERE FLYING MISSIONS IN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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BRONCO OV-10 GROUND ATTACK AIRCRAFT, BOMBING AND MACHINE-GUNNING LIBERATED VILLAGES.

COMMENTING ON THE REPORTS, THE EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY SAID THE DECISION BY INDONSION PRESIDENT SUHARTO TO EMPLOY AMERICANS ON OPERATIONS IN EAST TIMOR, WAS A SURE SIGN OF HIS FAILURE OVER NEARLY THREE YEARS TO CRUSH THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE.

"IN TERMS OF THE INDONESIAN ARMY, IT IS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS, AND A HIMILIATING ADMISSION OF THEIR SERVILE NEO-COLONIAL RULE," THE AGENCY SAID.

THE FACT THAT AMERICANS WERE ACTIVE IN THE REMEXIO AREA, CLOSE TO DILI, CONFIRMED ONCE MORE THAT SUHARTO WANTED THE PLACE SAFE FOR HIS VISIT LAST WEEK.

OVER 600 INDONESIAN SOLDERS HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE FIGHTING AOUND THE REMEXIO AREA, 15KM SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL DILI.

ACCORDING TO THE EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY, THE AMERICAN INTERVENTION WAS ORGANISED BY THE US CENTRAL INTELLIGENCY AGENCY (CIA).

"IT CERTAINLY HAS ALL THE MARKS OF A CIA OPERATION," THE AGENCY COMMENTED. "IT BEARS A VERY CLOSE SIMILARITY TOTHE CIA INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, IN SUPPORT OF ANTI-MPLA FORCES."
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PAGE 03 CANBER 05807 240916Z

"A SIMPLE DENIAL, AS ISSUED THROUGH THE US EMBASSY IN AUST-RALIA, WILL NOT CONVICE ANYONE." END QUTE.

2. THE LAST PARAGRAPH REFERS TO A SHORT PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY EMBASSY/USICA ON JUNE 23, 1978, RECITING THE US POSITION AS GIVEN IN STATE 156112. WE DO NOT FEEL COMPELLED TO GO BEVYOND WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID MAY TIMES BY WAY OF DESCRIBING THE US POSITION ON EAST TIMOR, BUT WOULD WELCOME DEPT'S OR ADDRESSEES' COMMENTS, IF ANY.
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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